ABSTRACT

1   Apparatus and a method are disclosed for automatically identifying and validating a

2   document, for validating the identity of a bearer of a document, for verifying that the bearer

3   has authorization to participate in an activity represented by the document, and for

4   comparing information on the document against information databases to determine if there

5   are known concerns about the document or its bearer. A document type is narrowed by

6   initially determining the size of the document, and is then identified from amongst a group

7   of documents by looking for colors or other characteristics at specific locations on the

8   document only until the document is identified. The order in which document locations are

9   looked at is dependent upon a history of the types of documents that have been identified.

10   An identified document is verified by first looking up reference information about the

11   document type and using that information to read specific contents and check only specific

12   security and other features utilized on the document. The contents of a document are

13   checked against a database to verify its contents, and other databases are checked for stolen

14   documents, known valid documents, and prohibited travel or entry. Biometrics in databases,

15   on documents and directly from the document bearer are compared to verify the bearer.